

F-3-91

Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville
Lewistown vicinity
Private

1882; 1903

The Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville was originally built in 1882, gutted by fire in 1903, and immediately rebuilt. The church is a typical example of the late 19th century rural church in Frederick County, with a hall plan and a projecting bell tower on the west gable end in which the original entrance was located. In 1967, a modern glass-enclosed foyer linking a new education building with the original church was built, changing the entrance from the front of the tower to the northwest corner of the building. The former entrance was closed and a modern stained glass window was placed in the opening, although the transom was retained. Other original exterior features are the Gothic arched windows on the north and south elevations, the patterned slate roof, and the open frame belfry. The exterior brick has been sandblasted and repointed. The church is a fair example of the rural church type of the last quarter of the 19th century, compared to others which retain more of their original features and materials. The Zion Reformed congregation shared the original Bethel Union Chapel (F-3-90) with the Evangelical Lutherans, and formed their own church in 1881, with the church being erected in 1882. When rebuilt in 1903-1904, the principal builder was John H. Wachter, who also was largely responsible for the 1889 Utica Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the last quarter of the 19th century, many of the "union chapels" were transferred to either the Lutheran or Reformed church as new charges were formed to respond to the slowly growing membership in these denominations.

F-3-91

Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville

Lewistown

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Religion

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville (preferred)

and/or common Faith United Church of Christ

2. Location

street & number 9333 Opossumtown Pike ☐ not for publicationcity, town Lewistown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Faith United Church of Christ

street & number 9333 Opossumtown Pike telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber AF4

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 489

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-91

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville (Faith United Church of Christ) is a one-story brick hall plan church built in 1881 and rebuilt in 1903 following storm damage, located on the east side of Opossumtown Pike about 3/4 mile southeast of the intersection with Bethel Road near Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The building's main elevation faces west toward the road and has a modern one-story glass-enclosed foyer adjoining the original bell tower and replacing the original main entrance through the base of the bell tower. A 1967 Sunday School wing is located off the north end of the foyer, leaving a small partially enclosed section of the church cemetery between the church and the education wing. The rest of the cemetery is located east and south of the church.

The original section of the church has 7:1 bond exterior walls which have been sandblasted and repointed. It has a projecting bell tower on the west gable end through which was a double-doored entrance. This entrance is now closed off and filled with modern stained glass. Above the former entrance is a Gothic arched transom with stained glass of the 1903 period of rebuilding. Above the original entrance in the tower shaft is a small Gothic arched window. The belfry has an open chamber with a slate pyramidal roof. The north and south elevations have four bays with Gothic arched stained glass windows. The roof is patterned slate. On the west elevation is a projection which undoubtedly corresponds to the choir recess behind the pulpit commonly found in other hall plan churches of the period. The interior was inaccessible for this survey. In the cemetery surrounding the east end of the church, the earliest death date observed was 1876, which predates the original church on the site. According to the Williams & McKinsey History of Frederick County of 1910, the original 1881 church was struck by lightning on May 22, 1903 and gutted to the exterior walls by the subsequent fire. The church was immediately rebuilt and rededicated on May 29, 1904. The 1910 history states that John H. Wachter, the principal builder of the Utica Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1889, was the builder of the 1903 church. No photographs of the original church have yet been located, but further research among church records and private collections may provide further information on its appearance and show what changes were made when it was rebuilt in 1903.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-91

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1882; 1903-1904 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☒C ☐D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G

Level of Significance: ☐national ☐state ☒local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville is a fair example of a late 19th century rural church in Frederick County. Its exterior walls date from 1881, and, although rebuilt in 1903 following a fire, its architectural character remains that of the last quarter of the 19th century. The Gothic arched windows and hall plan with a projecting bell tower are common elements found in many Reformed and Lutheran churches in Frederick County. The church has been significantly altered by the adjoining modern foyer and the closure of the original entrance and the replacement of the doors, thus lowering its integrity as compared to some other rural churches, such as the Pleasant Hill Union Chapel (F-3-31), built in 1883-1884, which retains most of its original exterior character, although it is no longer in use as a church. The Zion Reformed Church represents the growth of the Reformed and Lutheran congregations of Frederick County during the last quarter of the 19th century. Prior to about the 1880's, the two denominations often built and shared "union chapels" in several locations throughout the county. After about 1880, the interest of one sect was increasingly purchased by the other with a separate church being established. The Zion Reformed congregation was originally involved in the union chapel at Bethel (F-3-90) from 1838. In 1881, the Reformed congregation separated and built the Zion church in 1882. The name Charlesville refers to the loosely concentrated group of houses and farms in the vicinity of the church, most of which predate the church. The village took its name from Charles Broadrup, a local farmer and landowner with extensive holdings in the second half of the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-91

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 473.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acreQuadrangle name Frederick, Md.Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 48, Parcel 68

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

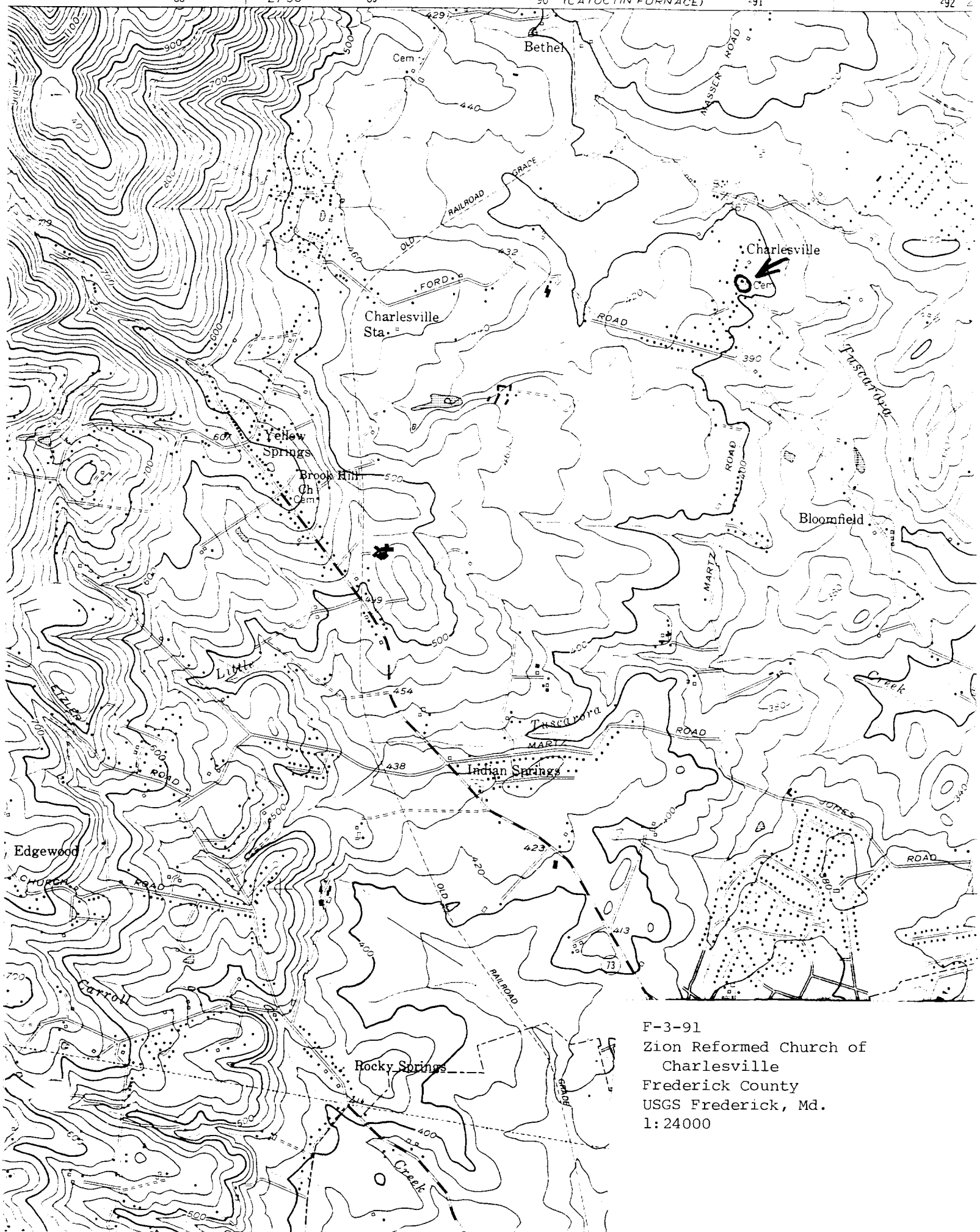
city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCE
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7402



F-3-91

Zion Reformed Church of
Charlesville

Frederick County

USGS Frederick, Md.

1:24000



F-3-91

Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October - 1992

Nex. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southwest corner view

1/2



F-3-91

Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

2/2